

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re **NATIONAL PHASE** Application of )  
Martin CALDWELL et al ) Attn: US/DO/EO  
International Application No. PCT/IE00/00033 )  
International Filing Date: March 20, 2000 )  
For: A SURGICAL ACCESS DEVICE ) Date: September 18, 2001

Pre/A  
#5  
GHA 6/11/03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIM:

Please note, the amended claims are presented below in their amended form. Further, as an Attachment to the Amendment the amendments to the claims are outlined using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

8. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the sleeve is made of an elastomer material, whereby insertion of the distal ring into an incision stretches the elastomer material causing tension between the distal ring and proximal ring.